



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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Janet Tennyson 202-208-5634

1995 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP ART CONTEST ENTRY INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE

Now that information on entering the 1995 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest is out, wildlife artists across the country are furiously putting paintbrush to palette in an effort to win the coveted honor of having their artwork featured on a Federal Duck Stamp. Winning the contest can instantly boost the reputation of an artist to the top of his or her profession.

According to the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the entry procedures for the 1995 contest have not been modified significantly from last year's, except for the species that can be portrayed and minor scheduling changes for the actual contest.

Waterfowl species eligible for portrayal this year are the Barrow's goldeneye, black scoter, mottled duck, and surf scoter. In addition, public viewing of the art entries will be for one day rather than the traditional two, beginning Monday, November 6, with contest judging taking place November 7 and 8. Duck Stamp entries will be accepted by the Federal Duck Stamp Program after July 1, and all entries must be postmarked no later than September 15, 1995.

Federal Duck Stamps must be purchased annually by all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older; however, they are also purchased by a growing number of stamp collectors and other conservationists as a way to contribute to wildlife and habitat conservation. Federal Duck Stamps are on sale for \$15 at most U.S. Post Offices, national wildlife refuges, and sporting goods stores.

Ninety-eight cents out of every Duck Stamp dollar are used for wetlands acquisition for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Since 1934 when the Federal Duck Stamp was created, the stamps have raised nearly half-a-billion dollars and helped purchase more than 4 million acres of habitat for the refuge system, which now includes 504 refuges.

Duck Stamp revenues also have been used for the acquisition of 180 waterfowl production areas, small wetland basins in the prairie pothole region of the upper Midwest where about 50 percent of all ducks in North America breed.

The Service commissioned artists to design the Federal Duck Stamp until 1949. Since then, annual contests have been held in which wildlife artists compete to have their design featured on the next year's stamp. The species eligible for portrayal change each year to ensure all species of North American waterfowl will eventually appear on a Federal Duck Stamp.

Today, even though the winner of the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest receives no cash award from the Federal Government, winning artists stand to make hundreds of thousands of dollars from the sale of limited edition prints of their Duck Stamp design, as well as realize increased value in their other paintings.

For copies of the 1995 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest rules and entry procedures, write: Federal Duck Stamp Program, 1849 C Street, NW., Room 2058, Washington, DC 20240; or telephone 202-208-4354.